

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EUR-12 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-07

LAB-04 SIL-01 DHA-02 ORM-01 MC-02 ACDA-10 /119 W

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R 111023Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4844

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 3962

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SY, EG, IS, US

SUBJ: SYRIAN REACTION TO SINAI AGREEMENT - OCT 9-10

1. DOMESTIC OCT 9 PRESS REPORTED THAT RALLIES HELD PREVIOUS EVENING IN HAMA AND DERA'A TO PROTEST SINAI AGREEMENT. OCT 9-10 ISSUES OF AL-THAWRAH CONTAINED INTERVIEWS WITH SYRIAN CITIZENS, ALL OF WHOM DEPLORED AGREEMENT. SYRIAN TELEVISION LAST FEW NIGHTS HAS ALSO BROADCAST INTERVIEWS WITH SYRIANS WHO UNANIMOUSLY TAKE ISSUE WITH AGREEMENT. OCT 10 AL-THAWRAH REPORTED THAT "MASSES OF OUR PEOPLE CONTINUE TO CONDEMN DEFEATIST AGREEMENT" AND NOTED CABLE OF PROTEST SENT BY PETROLEUM LABORERS' UNION IN DAMASCUS.

2. FOREIGN. AL-BAATH OF OCT 10 REPORTED STATEMENT BY SYRIAN INFORMATION MINISTER AHMAD CARRIED BY JORDANIAN AL-RAI. AHMAD CLAIMED THAT AGREEMENT DIRECTED AGAINST MARTYRS OF OCT WAR.

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3. COMMENTARY: EVENING OCT 8 DAMASCUS TELEVISION BROADCAST FILM ON SINAI AGREEMENT ENTITLED "WE WILL NOT FORGET". FILM CONSISTED OF CLIPS OF 1956 SUEZ ATTACK, 1967 WAR AND AFTERMATH WITH EMPHASIS ON PLIGHT OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEES
MIL-ITARY TRAINING PRECEDING OCT 1973
WAR AND ARAFAT AT UN. SECOND HALF PRESENTED FILMS OF SECRETARY NEGOTIATING WITH ISRAELIS AND EGYPTIANS WHILE ISRAELIS BOMBING LEBANESE VILLAGES AND PALESTINIAN CAMPS, SADAT SIGNING AGREEMENT WHICH "WITHDREW EGYPT FROM BATTLE AND PERMITTED ISRAELI CARGOS TO PASS THROUGH CANAL," SECRETARY ENJOYING HIMSELF AT PARTY WITH ISRAELI LEADERS AGAINST BACKDROP OF FURTHER ISRAELI ATTACKS AGAINST VILLAGES AND CAMPS, SYRIAN AND PALESTINIAN REJECTION OF AGREEMENT, SYRIAN ECONOMIC PROGRESS, AND SYRIAN MILITARY READINESS.

OCT 9 AL-BAATH LEAD EDITORIAL CLAIMED THAT SYRIAN STAND AGAINST AGREEMENT "FENCED IN AGREEMENT AND PREVENTED ANY ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY IT OR CAMOUFLAGE ITS DANGERS."
IT CLAIMED SYRIA HAD BEEN ABLE TO STILL VOICES SUPPORTING AGREEMENT AND MOBILIZE ARAB PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST IT.
OCT 9 AL-THAWRAH LEAD ARTICLE ALLEGED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD TO DEFEND AGREEMENT BEFORE SENATE BECAUSE SADAT HAD COMPROMISED HIMSELF BY DENYING EXISTENCE OF SECRET CLAUSES. ADDED THAT LEBANESE CRISIS FOMENTED BY "PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT" IN ORDER TO DISTRACT ARAB ATTENTION FROM SINAI AGREEMENT.

ALI SULAYMAN, EDITOR OF AL-THAWRAH, REITERATED ALLEGATION THAT U.S. HAS EXPLOITED LEBANESE CRISIS TO REDUCE PRESSURE ON EGYPT. HE CONCLUDED THAT "MAN WHO ACHIEVED OCT WAR CAPABLE OF TOPPLING ALL CONSPIRATORIAL PLANS AND KNOWS ROAD TO ANOTHER OCT."

COLUMNIST FUAD BALLAT REMARKED THAT EVEN IF EGYPT DID NOT KNOW OF SECRET CLAUSES, ITS DECISION TO IGNORE THEM WOULD AMOUNT TO APPROVAL OF CLAUSES. HE SAID THAT SINCE OFFICIAL EGYPTIAN ABROGATION WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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UNLIKELY, ARAB MASSES SHOULD WORK TO TOPPLE AGREEMENT. MAJ. HAYTHAM AL-AYYUBI CRITICIZED AGREEMENT ON BASIS THAT IT POLITICAL AND NOT MILITARY AGREEMENT, THAT RETURN OF GIDI AND MITLA PASSES INSIGNIFICANT STRATEGICALLY, THAT AGREEMENT INDIRECTLY EXCLUDED POTENTIAL FOR ALGERIAN, LIBYAN, MOROCCAN AND SUDANESE MILITARY ASSISTANCE, THAT IT INTRODUCED AMERICAN PRESENCE, AND THAT EGYPTIAN STATEMENTS OF READINESS TO FIGHT IF ISRAEL ATTACKED SYRIA

WERE MEANINGLESS.

ALI SULAYMAN IN OCT 10 EDITORIAL REDICULED PERES' PROPOSAL TO DROP APPLICATION FOR PERSHING'S IF SADAT REMOVED SOVIET MISSILES, DESCRIBING IT AS ATTEMPT TO SNATCH ANOTHER GAIN FROM AGREEMENT.

SYRIAN LAWYER CLAIMED IN PRESS ARTICLE THAT AGREEMENT VIOLATED EGYPTIAN CONSTITUTION.

ZAKARIA TAMIR IN OCT 10 AL-BAATH WROTE THAT "ORDINARY ARAB CITIZEN REFUSES TO SURRENDER TO ENEMY UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. THOSE WHO WORK IN ARAB POLITICAL CIRCUS SHOULD BE AWARE OF THIS FORGOTTEN TRUTH."

NUMBER OF OTHER COLUMNISTS REITERATED TRADITIONAL ARGUMENTS IN EXPRESSING THEIR OPPOSITION TO AGREEMENT. MURPHY

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